



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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June 1, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Iowa State Patrol, Omaha Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** On May 29, 2009, Misty Mendicino was sentenced to eighteen months in prison by the Honorable Chief Judge Joseph F. Bataillon, United States District Court for the District of Nebraska, following her conviction for Conspiracy. Mendicino was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release following her release from incarceration.

In September, 2007, Mendicino was snared in an undercover sting operation wherein various law enforcement agencies operated an undercover store front operation in Council Bluffs, Iowa, known as "Chicago Imports." One of the goals of the operation was to proactively target individuals who were in the business of stealing motor vehicles in the Council Bluffs and Omaha area. Car thieves would bring high priced stolen vehicles, usually SUV's, to the storefront and sell them for pennies on the dollar.

In September, 2007, Mendocino arranged to have her 2004 Mercedes Benz valued at approximately \$17,000 taken to Chicago Imports and sold to undercover officers for approximately \$2,400.00. Mendicino then reported her Mercedes stolen to the police and filed a false insurance claim with her insurance company. The insurance company, sensing a fraud, did not pay out on the claim.

**Name of Defendant:** Misty Mendicino

**AKA:**

**Age:** 34

**City of residence:** Omaha

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty):

Conspiracy. Up to 5 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, three years supervised release.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Council Bluffs/Omaha

**Location of Arrest:** Omaha

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** Potential loss, \$17,200

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** September, 2007 - December, 2007

**Federal Arrest Date:** September 29, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:** N/A

**Indictment Returned Date:** September 16, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** September 30, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Plea - December 11, 2008

**Sentencing Date:** May 29, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** F. A. Gossett

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:**

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Joseph F. Bataillon

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** RXM